

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8010

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Sunset Restaurant and owners Bob and Virginia Hodge for many years of service to the citizens of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, it is our privilege to recognize those historic Tennessee businesses that not only contribute to the economy but are also a part of the cultural fabric of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such entity is Sunset Restaurant, a well-known and beloved establishment that closed its doors for good on October 10, 2021, after sixty-three years of hospitality and service to the people of Lebanon, the State, and those who visited the restaurant from across the country; and

WHEREAS, operating as one of the main restaurants along Highway 231, the primary north-and-south artery in Lebanon and Wilson County, Sunset Restaurant has served customers from both ends of the State as well as Kentucky and customers who stopped in twice per year on their travels between the North and Florida; and

WHEREAS, owned and operated by Bob and Virginia Hodge for more than fifty-four years, Sunset Restaurant was built by Vestal Fox, the brother of Bob Hodge's stepfather, in 1959. Mr. Hodge's mother, Frances, and her husband purchased the eatery four years later, and, in 1967, Bob Hodge took over as co-owner of the restaurant with his wife, Virginia; his brother, Bill; and his brother's wife, Pat; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Bob and Virginia Hodge became the sole owners of Sunset Restaurant; under their ownership, the restaurant took on many changes, including the removal of the breakfast menu in 1986 and the tripling of its size from its original square footage; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Hodge praise the work of their employees, who they regard as family; a group of longtime personnel includes thirty-eight-year employee Shirley Ferrell; thirty-

four-year employees Jean Shutt and her son, Jim; thirty-one-year employee Terry Arceneaux; and twenty-year employee Tammy Gonzalez; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we recognize and honor this successful small business on this momentous occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend Sunset Restaurant and owners Bob and Virginia Hodge for many years of service to the citizens of Lebanon, this State, and beyond.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.